

C. Amendment to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, line 9 - page 4, line 1, as follows:

--In the conventional chemical foaming, the master batch method by which a heat decomposable foaming material and a resin material are mixed immediately before foaming is often used. Unfortunately, this method has many problems such as harmfulness, mold ~~foam~~ corrosion, the worsening of the foaming environment, and the difficulty of handling. In contrast, the physical foaming is harmless and causes no mold ~~foam~~ corrosion, and nitrogen and carbon dioxide exist in natural air. Therefore, the physical foaming is regarded as superior to the chemical foaming. However, in the method of allowing an inert gas to saturate directly into a molten resin, the gas is directly blown into the molten resin material, so a portion of the molten resin in contact with the gas is rapidly cooled when the gas is blown. If the gas is continuously blown, a large portion of the molten resin is cooled. Consequently, the viscosity rises, and it takes a long time to restore the resin temperature and viscosity suited to foaming.--

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, lines 2-11, as follows:

--To solve the above problems and achieve the object, according to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of storing a material into which a gas saturates, before the material is foamed in a metal mold ~~foam~~, while maintaining a gas saturated state, wherein the material into which the gas saturates is stored at a predetermined ambient pressure and predetermined ambient temperature, thereby preventing escape of the gas from the material into which the gas saturates.--

Please amend the paragraph at page 13, lines 16-22, as follows:

--In Fig. 4, reference numeral 9 denotes an injection foaming machine; 10, a metal mold foam; 11, a plasticator; 12, a hopper of this embodiment; 13, a gas cylinder; 14, a gas pressurizing apparatus; 15, a gas saturation vessel; 16 and 17, pumps; 18, a material silo; and 19, a pipe. The hopper 12 has the structures shown in Figs. 1 and 2.--

Please amend the paragraph at page 13, line 25 - page 14, line 17, as follows:

--A pelletized resin material is stored in the material silo 18. When foaming is to be performed, a necessary amount of the resin material is supplied to the gas saturation vessel 15 by the pump 17. A gas as a foaming material is supplied from the gas cylinder 13 to the gas saturation vessel 15 after pressurized by the gas pressurizing apparatus 14. The gas saturates into the resin material in the gas saturation vessel 15. This resin material into which the gas saturates is supplied to the hopper 12 by the pump 16. In the hopper 12, the resin material into which the gas saturates is stored at the pressure and temperature of this embodiment. In addition, the resin material is supplied to a material feeder of the plasticator 11, plasticized and kneaded, and charged into a cavity having a desired shape in the metal mold foam 10. The resin into which the gas as a foaming material saturates starts foaming at the same time the resin is charged into the mold foam. After cooling, the mold foam is opened to extract the foamed product.--